The request of the Govt. of Gujarat for assistance from the NFCR in the wake of cyclone was considered by the NCRC, which approved an assistance of Rs. 55.25 crore to the State. This amount has been released to the State Government. The State Government's request for assistance from the NFCR in the wake of floods in Surat was considered and it was felt that the calamity could not prima-facie be considered to be one of rare severity to qualify for the assistance from the NFCR. The State was informed accordingly.

Confidence Building Measures between India and Pakistan

*343. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent SAARC meet at Nuwara Eliya in Sri Lanka he had talks with his Pakistani counterpart regarding nuclear weapons related confidence building measures (CBMs);

(b) if so, the precise nature and other details of the CBMs; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) In my talks with the Foreign Minister of Pakistan on the sidelines of the 21st Session of the SAARC Council of Ministers at Nuwara Eliya in Sri Lanka on 19 March, 1999, it was agreed that the two countries would take concrete measures for implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding regarding confidence building measures, which was signed by the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan during the visit of the Prime Minister to Pakistan in February 1999. It was also agreed that the meetings of experts for implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding would be held over the next two months. Preparatory work in this regard is currently underway and it is expected that these meetings will take place soon.

Rules Governing Resignation by Government Officers

*344. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Central Government Officer after tendering resignation can subsequently withdraw the resignation;

(b) if so, what are the details of rules, prescribed period and other guidelines/ provisions relevant in this regard;

(c) whether a number of cases of resignation and their subsequent withdrawal by officers of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep were referred to the Ministry of Personnel for their expert comments; and

(d) if so, what are the details of such cases received by the Ministry during the last one year along with the action/ decision taken on these cases and reasons therefor and when the decisions on these cases were taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) and (b) The rules and regulations regarding withdrawal of resignation are governed by the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972 in respect of Central government employees and corresponding rules for All India Services, Railway & Defence employees etc.

The Andaman & Nicobar Islands is a Union Territory. The employees are, therefore, governed by the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972.

The request of an ex-government servant for withdrawal of resignation is considered in terms of Rule 26(4) & (5)